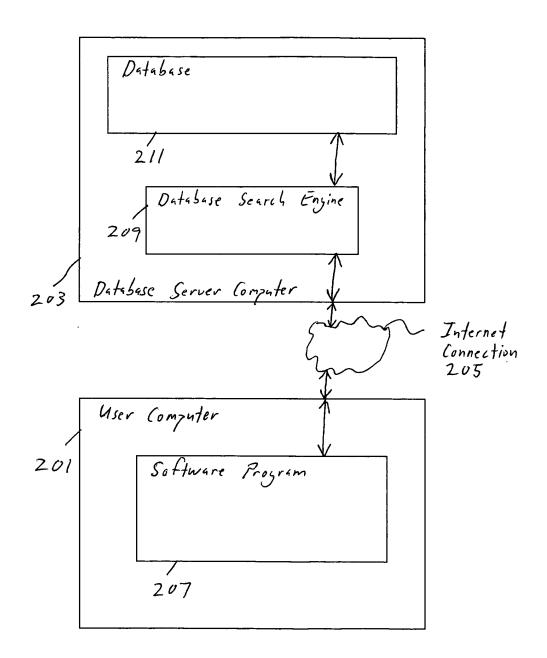


<u>Fig. 2</u>



Step 1. User inputs to Software Program 207 the patent number of the "patent under test" and directs the Software Program 207 to begin its "recursive" search.

Step 2. Software Program 207 sends a request via the Internet Connection 205 to the Database Search Engine 209 (through the Database Server Computer 203) to return the "patent under test" in Hyper Text Markup Language ("HTML") format.

Step 3. Database Search Engine 209 obtains the "patent under test" from the Database 211 in response to the request and returns the "patent under test" in HTML format to the Software Program 207 via the Internet Connection 205 (through Database Server Computer 203).

Step 4. Software Program 207 parses the HTML data corresponding to the "patent under test" and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in the "patent under test". This stored identifying data is "generation n" data (where n is an integer that initially equals 1).

Step 5. Software Program 207 sends a request via the Internet Connection 205 to the Database Search Engine 209 (through the Database Server Computer 203) to return, in HTML format, patent k (where k is an integer initially equal to 1) identified by the "generation n" data.

Step 6. Database Search Engine 209 obtains patent k from the Database 211 in response to the request and returns patent k in HTML format to the Software Program 207 via the Internet Connection 205 (through the Database Server Computer 203).

Step 7. Software Program 207 parses the HTML data corresponding to patent k and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in patent k. This stored identifying data is "generation n+1" data.

The value of k may then be incremented upward by 1 and Steps 5, 6, and 7 are repeated until all of the patents identified in the "generation n" data are requested by and returned to the Software Program 207.

The value of n may then be incremented upward by 1, the value of k may be reset to 1, and the process repeated (beginning at Step 5) for the "generation 2" data to produce "generation 3" data, and so on.

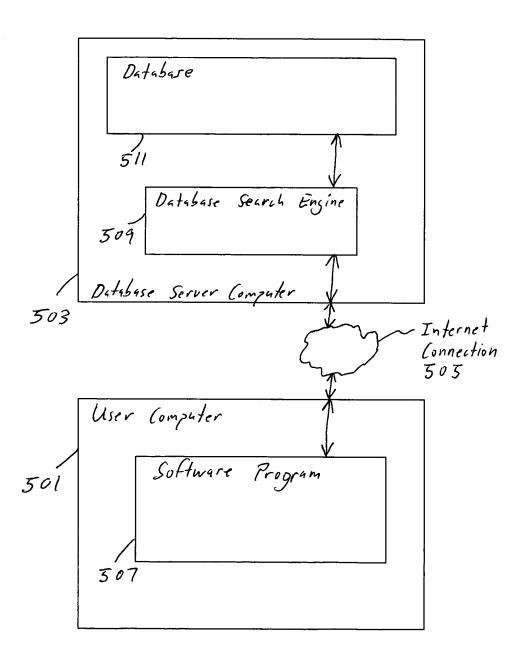
Step 8. Apply "rule-based" filtering.

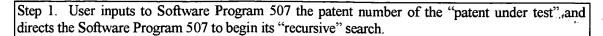
Step 9. Display identifying data corresponding to the patents found during the "recursive" search.



🖺 References				_ I 🗆 🗵
├ <u></u> 9,000,123 Jones		455/123	Relevant	
- 8,345,123 Hanfor		455/127	Relevant	
L 7,887,333 Krantz		455/323	Relevant	
-@17,002,009 Spence	er Feb. 1977	455/323	Non-Relevant	
6,234,900 Paterso	on et al. Aug. 1975	475/773	Relevant	
-© 8,777,333 Smithe	t al. May 1991	455/323	Relevant	
-©18,337,223 William	s Dec. 1978	355/222	Non-Relevant	
└@18,512,776 Larson	et al. April 1981	453/325	Relevant	
└©37,185,452 Vinkler		453/165	Relevant	
				2000
				8000

<u>Fig. 5</u>





Step 2. Software Program 507 sends a request via the Internet Connection 505 to the Database Search Engine 509 (through the Database Server Computer 503) to return a list of all references, in HTML format, that cite the "patent under test".

Step 3. Database Search Engine 509 obtains the list of all references that cite the "patent under test" from the Database 511 in response to the request and returns the list in HTML format to the Software Program 507 via the Internet Connection 505 (through Database Server Computer 503).

Step 4. Software Program 507 parses the HTML data corresponding to the list of references returned in Step 3 and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference. This stored identifying data is "generation n" data (where n is an integer that initially equals 1).

Step 5. Software Program 507 sends a request via the Internet Connection 505 to the Database Search Engine 509 (through the Database Server Computer 503) to return, in HTML format, patent k (where k is an integer initially equal to 1) identified by the "generation n" data.

Step 6. Database Search Engine 509 obtains patent k from the Database 511 in response to the request and returns patent k in HTML format to the Software Program 507 via the Internet Connection 505 (through the Database Server Computer 503).

Step 7. Software Program 507 parses the HTML data corresponding to patent k and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in patent k (additional identifying data corresponding to patent k may also be stored at this step as "generation n" data if such data was not available at Step 3). This stored identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in patent k is "generation n+1" data.

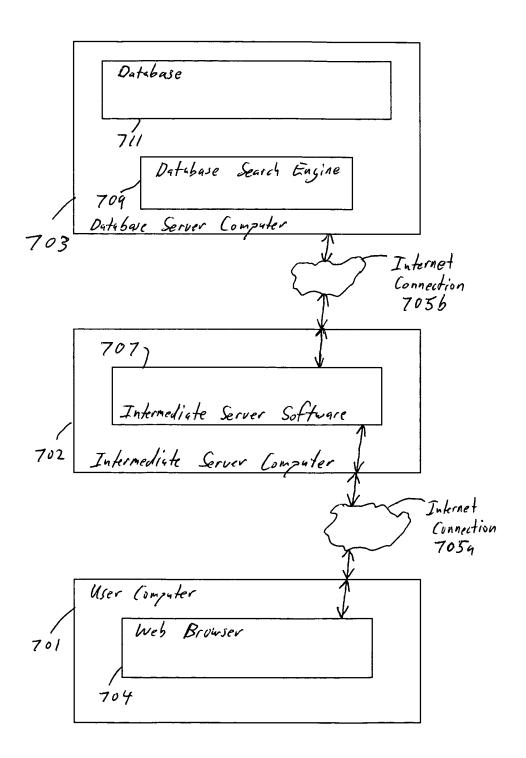
The value of k may then be incremented upward by 1 and Steps 5, 6, and 7 are repeated until all of the patents identified in the "generation n" data are requested by and returned to the Software Program 507.

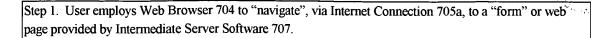
The value of n may then be incremented upward by 1, the value of k may be reset to 1, and the process repeated (beginning at Step 5) for the "generation 2" data to produce "generation 3" data, and so on.

Step 8. Apply "rule-based" filtering.

Step 9. Display identifying data corresponding to the patents found during the "recursive" search.

Fig. 7





Step 2. User inputs to Intermediate Server Software 707 the patent number of the "patent under test" and directs the Intermediate Server Software 707 to begin its "recursive" search.

Step 3. Intermediate Server Software 707 sends a request via the Internet Connection 705b to the Database Search Engine 709 (through the Database Server Computer 703) to return the "patent under test" in Hyper Text Markup Language ("HTML") format.

Step 4. Database Search Engine 709 obtains the "patent under test" from the Database 711 in response to the request and returns the "patent under test" in HTML format to the Intermediate Server Software 707 via the Internet Connection 705b (through Database Server Computer 703).

Step 5. Intermediate Server Software 707 parses the HTML data corresponding to the "patent under test" and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in the "patent under test". This stored identifying data is "generation n" data (where n is an integer that initially equals 1).

Step 6. Intermediate Server Software 707 sends a request via the Internet Connection 705b to the Database Search Engine 709 (through the Database Server Computer 703) to return, in HTML format, patent k (where k is an integer initially equal to 1) identified by the "generation n" data.

Step 7. Database Search Engine 709 obtains patent k from the Database 711 in response to the request and returns patent k in HTML format to the Intermediate Server Software 707 via the Internet Connection 705b (through the Database Server Computer 703).

Step 8. Intermediate Server Software 707 parses the HTML data corresponding to patent k and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in patent k. This stored identifying data is "generation n+1" data.

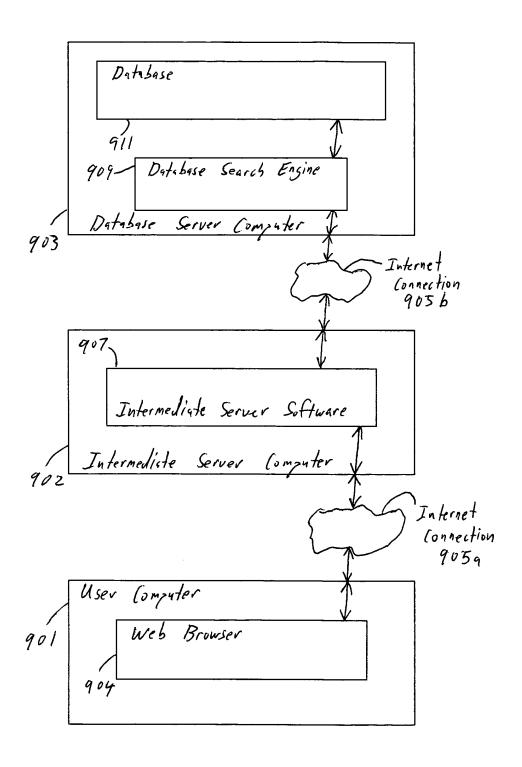
The value of k may then be incremented upward by 1 and Steps 6, 7, and 8 are repeated until all of the patents identified in the "generation n" data are requested by and returned to the Intermediate Server Software 707.

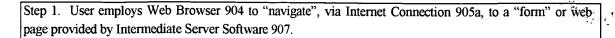
The value of n may then be incremented upward by 1, the value of k may be reset to 1, and the process repeated (beginning at Step 6) for the "generation 2" data to produce "generation 3" data, and so on.

Step 9. Apply "rule-based" filtering.

Step 10. Display identifying data corresponding to the patents found during the "recursive" search.

Fig. 9





- Step 2. User inputs to Intermediate Server Software 907 the patent number of the "patent under test and directs the Intermediate Server Software 907 to begin its "recursive" search.
- Step 3. Intermediate Server Software 907 sends a request via the Internet Connection 905b to the Database Search Engine 909 (through the Database Server Computer 903) to return a list of all references, in HTML format, that cite the "patent under test".
- Step 4. Database Search Engine 909 obtains the list of all references that cite the "patent under test" from the Database 911 in response to the request and returns the list in HTML format to the Intermediate Server Software 907 via the Internet Connection 905b (through Database Server Computer 903).
- Step 5. Intermediate Server Software 907 parses the HTML data corresponding to the list of references returned in Step 4 and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference. This stored identifying data is "generation n" data (where n is an integer that initially equals 1).
- Step 6. Intermediate Server Software 907 sends a request via the Internet Connection 905b to the Database Search Engine 909 (through the Database Server Computer 903) to return, in HTML format, patent k (where k is an integer initially equal to 1) identified by the "generation n" data.
- Step 7. Database Search Engine 909 obtains patent k from the Database 911 in response to the request and returns patent k in HTML format to the Intermediate Server Software 907 via the Internet Connection 905b (through the Database Server Computer 903).
- Step 8. Intermediate Server Software 907 parses the HTML data corresponding to patent k and stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in patent k. This stored identifying data is "generation n+1" data.

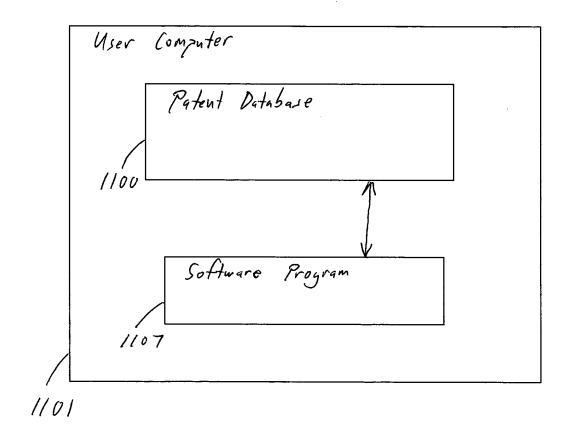
The value of k may then be incremented upward by 1 and Steps 6, 7, and 8 are repeated until all of the patents identified in the "generation n" data are requested by and returned to the Intermediate Server Software 907.

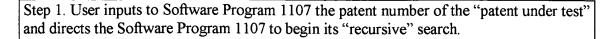
The value of n may then be incremented upward by 1, the value of k may be reset to 1, and the process repeated (beginning at Step 6) for the "generation 2" data to produce "generation 3" data, and so on.

Step 9. Apply "rule-based" filtering.

Step 10. Display identifying data corresponding to the patents found during the "recursive" search.

Fig. 11





- Step 2. Software Program 1107 searches and retrieves from the Patent Database 1100 the "patent under test".
- Step 3. Software Program 1107 stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in the "patent under test". This stored identifying data is "generation n" data (where n is an integer that initially equals 1).
- Step 4. Software Program 1107 searches and retrieves from the Patent Database 1100 patent k (where k is an integer initially equal to 1) identified by the "generation n" data.
- Step 5. Software Program 1107 stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in patent k. This stored identifying data is "generation n+1" data.

The value of k may then be incremented upward by 1 and Steps 4 and 5 are repeated until all of the patents identified in the "generation n" data are retrieved by the Software Program 1107.

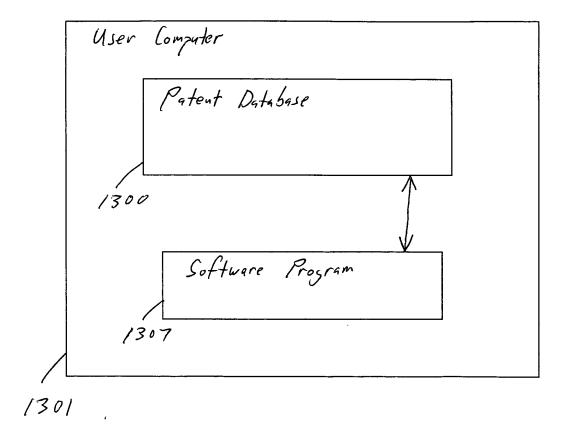
The value of n may then be incremented upward by 1, the value of k may be reset to 1, and the process repeated (beginning at Step 4) for the "generation 2" data to produce "generation 3" data, and so on.

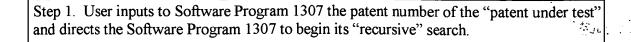
Step 6. Apply "rule-based" filtering.

Step 7. Display identifying data corresponding to the patents found during the "recursive" search.



Fig. 13





- Step 2. Software Program 1307 searches and retrieves from the Patent Database 1300 a list of references that cite the "patent under test".
- Step 3. Software Program 1307 stores identifying data corresponding to each reference in the list. This stored identifying data is "generation n" data (where n is an integer that initially equals 1).
- Step 4. Software Program 1307 searches and retrieves from the Patent Database 1300 patent k (where k is an integer initially equal to 1) identified by the "generation n" data.
- Step 5. Software Program 1307 stores identifying data corresponding to each reference cited in patent k. This stored identifying data is "generation n+1" data.

The value of k may be incremented upward by 1 and Steps 4 and 5 are repeated until all of the patents identified in the "generation n" data are retrieved by the Software Program 1307.

The value of n may then be incremented upward by 1, the value of k may be reset to 1, and the process repeated (beginning at Step 4) for the "generation 2" data to produce "generation 3" data, and so on.

Step 6. Apply "rule-based" filtering.

Step 7. Display identifying data corresponding to the patents found during the "recursive" search.